

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 1951

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the procedure for duplicating ballots for automatic counting.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 127.126, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (g) to read as follows:

(a) The manager of a central counting station may have ballots duplicated for automatic counting as provided by this section. The manager shall designate teams of two election officers to prepare the duplicate ballots. Each officer must be aligned or affiliated with a different political party unless there are not two or more election officers serving the central counting station who are aligned with different parties.

(a-1) The election officers designated under Subsection (a) shall prepare a duplicate ballot by having one officer announce the name of the candidate and the other officer mark the ballot with the name of that candidate. Each duplicate ballot must be independently reviewed by a second team of two election officers, each of whom is aligned or affiliated with a different political party as described by Subsection (a).

(g) The manager of a central counting station shall post the time that ballots will be duplicated to ensure that poll watchers are able to observe the activity under this section.

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1           SECTION 2.   This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.